

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 14. (canceled)

15. (new) An umbrella comprising:

a central axis-defining shaft;

a plurality of ribs having inner ends secured to the shaft and outer ends and movable between a closed position extending axially along the shaft and an open position extending radially from the shaft;

a flexible canopy spanned over the ribs;

an actuator movable axially along the shaft;

respective spreaders each having an outer end pivoted on a respective one of the ribs and an inner end pivotal on the actuator;

a slide shiftable along one of the ribs adjacent the outer end thereof; and

a brace having an outer end pivoted on the slide and an inner end pivoted on the spreader between the inner and outer ends thereof.

16. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein a length of each rib between its outer end and its pivotal connection with the outer end of the respective spreader is at least equal to a length of the respective brace plus a length of the respective

5 spreader between its pivotal connection with the respective rib and
6 with the respective brace.

1 17. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein the
2 umbrella has a plurality of the braces distributed angularly and
3 extending between respective spreaders and the respective ribs.

1 18. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein the
2 ribs are made of plastic such that in open position a tension of
3 the canopy on the elastically bent ribs and on the braces is such
4 that only a sectoral inversion of the frame with the canopy is
5 possible and a complete inversion of the canopy is inhibited
6 circumferentially.

1 19. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 18 wherein the
2 plastic spreaders have a diameter of 2 to 6 mm.

1 20. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 18 wherein the
2 plastic spreaders have a diameter 3 to 4 mm.

1 21. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein the
2 braces are made of plastic.

3 22. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein in
4 open position the canopy and the ribs form a spring element acting
5 as a damping member that resists inversion.

1 23. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 22 wherein a
2 spring strength of the damping member is such that only a sectoral
3 inversion is possible and that it forces an automatic restoration
4 by the damping member when wind pressure drops.

1 24. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein every
2 other spreader has one such brace.

1 25. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein the
2 slide is formed as a tube engaged around the respective rib and
3 forming a pivot.

1 26. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein each
2 rib has at least where it engages the respective slide a U-section
3 in which a shoe carried by the respective slide can shift.

1 27. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 26 wherein a
2 diameter of the brace is smaller than the interior width of the U-
3 section and in the closed position each brace is nested in the
4 respective rib.

1 28. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 15 wherein the
2 rib engaged by the brace has an abutment for limiting sliding of
3 the respective slide toward the respective rib inner end.

1 29. (new) The umbrella defined in claim 28 wherein the
2 abutment is mounted on the respective rib at a spacing from its
3 outer end that is effective via the respective brace to curve the
4 respective rib so as to prestress the frame when open in a
5 direction resisting inversion of the canopy.